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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China (Tibet)/India

SUBJECT Unfolded Wool Accumulating at Kalimpong

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1.

"The wool trade in Kalimpong is duller than I have ever seen it. There are large stocks lying in Kalimpong, approximately nine thousand bales, with fresh stocks arriving daily.

"With no buyers in the market sellers are wearing very long faces. Prices are quoting Rs 164/- per maund fob Calcutta, Rs 20/- per maund lower than three weeks ago. We may well see lower levels yet.

"There would appear to be a move to narrow down the list of banned goods between East and West. Presumably we shall not know anything definite before the Five Power conference next month.

"The danger as I see it is; Tibet being such a small issue there is the possibility of it being overlooked when these matters are discussed, and it would appear to me that now is the time to remind Washington about Tibet produce. However, I suppose those in the US who have an interest in Tibet produce have not let the matter sink entirely out of sight.

"The Chinese occupation of Tibet has had no outward effect on Tibetan trade in Kalimpong, everything is normal and continues the same as ever. The Tibetans themselves are as cheerful and carefree as school children. The air of concern and unrest has entirely disappeared among them and, they are out to trade with the highest bidder irrespective of caste or creed. There is less evidence of Chinese influence now than there was a year ago. In fact it would appear to be non-existent."

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2. After reading the above letter, the thought [redacted] that perhaps the Chinese are not buying the Tibetan clip and are allowing the wool to accumulate on

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purpose, as they may expect that the US will withdraw her ban on Tibetan
produce as a concession in the negotiations to take place at the approaching
Geneva Conference.

-end-

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